# REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH to the WILTON URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY for the year ending 31st. December, 1909.

GENTLEMEN,

The population of Wilton Urban District which was 2203 at the Census of 1901 had increased at Midsummer 1909 to 2355 as estimated by the excess of births over deaths registered during that period.

The area of the district is 1852 acres giving an average population of 1·2 per acre. The number of inhabited houses is 551, and the average number of inmates per house is 4·2.

The Water of the town supply taken from the mains has been examined on four occasions and in each case was found to be excellent in quality. The supply has also been abundant, but from the absence of any recording meter at the Pumping Station it is impossible to ascertain the number of gallons per head pumped. Twelve houses lying beyond the range of the town supply are furnished with wells and rain-tanks.

The examination of Food and Drugs is conducted by the County Analyst, and a Special Officer is appointed by the County Council to inspect food and take samples. No case of Unwholesome or Adulterated Food has come under my notice calling for legal interference.

The remaining house-connections with the new drainage have now been made including The Chantry, Bulbridge, and the system so far has worked satisfactorily. One complaint of smell arising from a manhole was received and attended to.

The Streams and Water-courses are clean and in good condition.

The Cemetery provides sufficient accomodation for the wants of the district and is in good sanitary order. The Churchyards are practically closed for general interments.

Fifteen Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses and two Slaughterhouses have been inspected and all defects found have been remedied. Three factories have been certified for limewashing and eight insanitary conditions dealt with.

The district has been Systematically Inspected and the necessary notices served as tabulated below.

Six cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease including Diphtheria, Scarlatina and Erysipelas, have been registered during the year, but no death from any zymotic disease occurred. Measles, Whooping Cough and Influenza have all been prevalent but not being notifiable the number of cases is not known. On account of the prevalence of Whooping Cough in December it became necessary to close the Infant School: the matter was duly reported at the time. By permission of the Council the Bacteriological Examinations have this year been made in London, the County Council Laboratory at Trowbridge being closed. Printed instructions and disinfectants have been supplied in each case of notifiable disease, and six houses have been disinfected.

The Medical Inspection of School Children was continued until July when the work was handed over by the County Council to a Whole Time School Officer. Before July 84 children were examined and all defects requiring attention were notified to the parents through the County Medical Officer of Health. These defects consisted largely in Parasitic Affections of the skin and hair, in defects of sight or hearing, in affections of the throat, heart or lungs, and in deformities of the spine or limbs.

The number of Births in 1909 was 36, 14 being of female and 22 of male children. The Birth Rate for the year was 15·3 per 1000 of the population: the average rate of the preceeding ten years was 19 per 1000.

The number of Deaths registered was 25 giving a crude death-rate of 10·6 per 1000. One death of a former inhabitant occured at Devizes Asylum so that the corrected death-rate is 11 per 1000. No death occured from any zymotic disease; three were due to Cancer, and one to Phthisis. One child died from natural causes in infancy, and one was accidentally killed. With these exceptions no death occured under the age of thirty years. The rate of Infantile mortality is 55 per 1000 births.

Two cases of Overcrowding were abated. Twenty seven houses were Cleansed and Limewashed. One house was closed, four made again habitable, and two new houses have been built.

Nine new W.C's have been provided, 54 drains have been cleansed, trapped or ventilated, and 44 have been relaid.

During the year 460 Loads of Refuse have been removed from 544 houses.

Very Important Changes were made on 3rd. December, 1909, in the powers of the Council over the Housing of the Working Classes. The "Housing and Town Planning Act" secures the Keeping of Workmen's houses in repair and "reasonably fit for human habitation," and the closing of houses that do not reach this standard is rendered compulsory. The only appeal is to the Local Government Board who will hold a Public Local Enquiry before dismissing the appeal. Back-to-back Houses are no longer allowed to be erected, The Act greatly simplifies Administrative Procedure. Part II. of the Act deals with town planning schemes not only from the Public Health but from the Aesthetic point of view.

Three Factory Chimneys have been under observation. Three cases of Animals kept so as to be a nuisance were dealt with. Five Offensive Accumalations of refuse were ordered to be removed.

Seventy eight Notices to Abate Nuisances have been served during the year, of which 67 have already been complied with and 11 are outstanding or still current.

I append the usual Tables of Statistics and Summary of Supervision exercised.

CHARLES R. STRATON,

Lic. San. Sci. Durh.,

Medical Officer of Health.

## TABLE I.—WILTON URBAN DISTRICT.

*Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and previous years*

| Year. | Population estimated to middle of each Year | Births | | Total Deaths Registered in the District. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Under 1 year of age. | | At all Ages. | |
| | | Number | Rate.* | Number. | Rate per 1,000 Births registered. | Number. | Rate* |
| 1899 | 2326 | 50 | 21·9 | 6 | 120 | 34 | 14·3 |
| 1900 | 2352 | 41 | 17·4 | 3 | 73 | 15 | 6·6 |
| 1901 | 2203 | 40 | 18·1 | 6 | 150 | 30 | 13·6 |
| 1902 | 2223 | 40 | 17·9 | 4 | 100 | 21 | 9·4 |
| 1903 | 2234 | 40 | 17·9 | 6 | 150 | 29 | 12·9 |
| 1904 | 2286 | 50 | 21·8 | 2 | 40 | 28 | 12·2 |
| 1905 | 2304 | 46 | 19·9 | 2 | 43 | 28 | 12·1 |
| 1906 | 2321 | 45 | 19·3 | 5 | 111 | 28 | 12 |
| 1907 | 2338 | 50 | 21·3 | 3 | 60 | 30 | 12·8 |
| 1908 | 2344 | 35 | 14·9 | 1 | 28 | 29 | 12·3 |
| Averages for years 1899-1908. | 2293 | 43·7 | 19 | 3·8 | 87·5 | 27·2 | 11·8 |
| 1909 | 2355 | 36<br>M. 22<br>F. 14 | 15·3 | 2 | 55 | 25<br>M. 12<br>F. 13 | 10·6 |

*Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Deaths in Institutions—1. Deaths—nett, 26. Corrected death—rate 11.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) } 1852

Total population at all ages, 2203
Number of inhabited houses, 549
Average number of persons per house, 4·3
} At Census of 1901

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## TABLE III.—*Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1909 in the Wilton Urban District.*

| Notifiable Disease. | Cases Notified. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | At all ages. | At Ages—Years | | | |
| | | 5 to 15 | 15 to 25 | 25 to 65 | 65 and upwards |
| Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Erysipelas ... ... | 3 | | | 1 | 2 |
| Scarlet fever ... ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | | |
| Totals ... ... ... | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

TABLE IV. *Cause of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1909, in the Wilton Urban District.*

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occuring in or beyond the district. | | | | Total Deaths of "Residents" in Public Institutions outside the District. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | All ages. | Under 1 Year. | 25 and under 65. | 65 and upwards | |
| Diarrhœa ... . .. | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Phthisis ... ... ... | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Cancer, malignant disease | 3 | | 3 | | |
| Bronchitis ... ... | 2 | | 1 | 1 | |
| Other diseases of Respiratory organs. | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Heart diseases ... ... | 2 | | | 2 | |
| Accidents ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | | | |
| All other causes ... ... | 14 | | 6 | 8 | 1 |
| All Causes | 25 | 2 | 11 | 12 | 1 |

TABLE V. *Infantile Mortality during the Year 1909, in the Wilton Urban District.*

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

| CAUSE OF DEATH. | 2-3 Weeks. | Total under 1 Month. | 2-3 Months. | Total Death under one year. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Diarrhœa ... ... ... | | | 1 | 1 |
| Suffocation, overlying ... | 1 | | | 1 |
| | 1 | | 1 | 2 |

District of Wilton. Population, (Estimated to middle of 1909), 2355.

Births in the year { legitimate 35. / illegitimate 1. } Death in the year of legitimate infants 2.

*Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 25.*

## Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

INCLUDING INSPECTION MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

| Premises. | Number of | |
|---|---|---|
| | Instructions | Written Notices. |
| Factories ... ... ... (Including Factory Laundries). | 7 | 2 |
| Workshops ... ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries). | 5 | |
| Workplaces ... ... ... (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report.) | 4 | 3 |
| Total ... ... ... | 16 | 5 |

## Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

| Particulars, | Number of Defects. | |
|---|---|---|
| | Found. | Remedied. |
| *Nuisances under the Public Health Act* | | |
| Want of cleanliness ... ... | 5 | 5 |
| Other nuisances ... ... ... | 6 | 6 |
| Total ... .. ... | 11 | 11 |

| Registered Workshops. | |
|---|---|
| Workshops on the Register at the end of the year. | Number. |
| Bakehouses ... ... ... | 3 |
| Workshops ... ... ... | 6 |
| Workrooms ... ... ... | 3 |
| Factories ... ... ... | 3 |
| Total number of Workshops on Register | 15 |

## TABLE VI.

*Summary of Work done in Sanitary Inspector's Department of the Wilton Urban District during the year ending 31st. December, 1909.*

*Prevention of Infectious Disease under Direction of Medical Officer of Health*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of Cases inquired into .. | 8 |
| No. of Houses disinfected and cleansed | 6 |
| No. of Patients removed to Hospital | 0 |
| Lots of Bedding, Clothing, etc., Disinfected or Destroyed .. | 0 |
| Cases of Illegal Exposure reported | 0 |

*Houses.*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. erected (if information obtainable) | 2 |
| No. made fit for Habitation .. | 4 |
| No. Closed as unfit for Habitation | 1 |
| No. Cleansed and Limewashed | 27 |

*Overcrowding.*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of cases abated .. .. | 2 |

*House Drains.*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. Laid or Re-laid .. | 44 |
| No. Cleansed, Trapped, and Ventilated | 54 |
| No. of Defective Waste Pipes rectified | 7 |
| No. of Insanitary Lavatories, Sinks and Urinals rectified .. .. | 14 |
| No. of Dumbwells rectified .. | Nil |

*Water Closets.*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of additional W.C.'s provided | 9 |
| No. Repaired, Ventilated, and supplied with Flush Cisterns .. | 11 |

*Privies and Ashpits.*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of additional Privies and Ashpits provided .. .. .. | Nil |
| No. converted to W.C.'s or Slop-closets | 1 |
| No. converted to Pail-Closets .. | Nil |
| No. Repaired .. .. .. | Nil |

*Scavenging.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Total No. of Houses from which Refuse is Removable by the Authority | 544 |
| Total No. of Privies and Ashpits cleansed | Not done by the Authority |
| Total No. of Portable Receptables cleansed | Disinfectants used where necessary |
| Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Excrement removed .. .. | Nil |
| Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Refuse Removed .. .. | 460 |
| No. of New Dust Receptacles provided | Not provided by the Authority |

*Smoke Nuisances.*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. under Observation .. | 3 |
| No. abated .. .. .. | Nil |

*Offensive Trades*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. under Observation .. | Nil |
| No. Improperly Conducted .. | Nil |

*Water Supply.*

| | |
|---|---|
| No of Wells Sunk .. .. | Nil |
| No of Wells Cleansed and Repaired | Nil |
| No. of Wells Closed as Polluted | Nil |
| No of Houses Supplied from Waterworks (during year) .. | 539 |
| No. of Samples taken for Analysis | 4 |

*Slaughter Houses.*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. Registered or Licensed .. | 2 |
| No. Regularly Inspected .. | 2 |
| No. Cleansed and Repaired .. | 2 |

*Dairies and Cowsheds.*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of Persons engaged in Milk Trade now on Register and under Supervision .. .. | 6 |
| No. of Contravention of Acts, Orders and Byelaws dealt with .. | Nil |
| No. of Infected Milk Supplies reported by the Inspector .. .. | Nil |

*Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. under Inspection .. | 15 |
| No. Certified for Lime-Washing by Inspector .. .. | 3 |
| No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances .. .. | 8 |
| No. employing "Young Persons" &c. reported to Medical Officer of Health | 3 |

*Lodging Houses.*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. on Register .. .. | Nil |
| No. Regularly Inspected .. | Nil |
| No. Cleansed and Repaired .. | Nil |

*Food.*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of Seizures as unfit for Consumption | Done by County Officer. |

*Animals Kept so as to be a Nuisance.*

| | |
|---|---|
| No of Cases of Removal on Notice | 3 |

*Accumalation of Offensive Refuse.*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of Removals .. .. | 5 |

*Legal Proceedings.*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. Taken .. .. .. | Nil |
| No. of Convictions Obtained .. | Nil |
| No. of Cases Withdrawn or Dismissed | Nil |

*Clerical Work.*

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of Notices Served .. .. | 78 |
| No of Notices Complied with .. | 67 |
| No. of Notices Outstanding .. | 11 |
| | These are being attended to. |

W. W. H. MUSSELWHITE, *Sanitary Inspector.*

*Wilton Printing Works, North St. Wilton.*